

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. The rejection and objections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

Applicant notes that the IDS form PTO-1449 filed on April 10, 2001 is not attached to the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, indicating the Examiner has not yet considered the IDS. Examiner is requested to consider the submitted IDS and to attach an initialed copy to the next Office communication.

**Objections to the Disclosure**

The specification has been editorially amended to correct clerical errors and for improved readability. However, Applicant believes the elements recited in claims 7 and 14 have proper antecedent basis support in the specification. Applicant refers Examiner to page 4, lines 7-10 of the specification, which recites “a VOQ (Virtual Output Queue) buffer for storing reception data for each output interface section to be a destination.” Accordingly, Applicant requests Examiner to withdrawal the outstanding objections to the disclosure.

**Objections to the Claims**

The claims have been editorially amended to correct clerical errors and to improve clarity. However, Applicant believes the “switching” recited in line 8 of claims 1, 8, 15, 16 and 17 properly refers to the switching of allocated output port information input from (1) an outside of the N×kM scheduler **and** (2) information from the N×M schedulers at a front step. This

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claimed switching occurs such that either input is selected, thus the “and” to specify the input elements is proper. Accordingly, Applicant requests Examiner to withdrawal the outstanding objections to the claims.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17, as amended, now clearly recites a claimed multi-mode scheduling method. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

  
Lenny R. Jiang  
Registration No. 52,432

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